

Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan January 27, 2015 Open House

Verbatim Community Comments

Categorized Verbatim Comments About the Draft Master Plan

Disc Golf

- Would like to see the use of the existing pin location on the old disc golf course left behind by HP. It would be a cost savings in the installation process using the existing pins. The eroded area at hole 5 could be fixed by a box culvert.
- “HP Disc Golf”: 8 years of disc golf playing, I consider myself as pro. Has been many tournament & bridie bass. I would like to see my Original Golf course up again. **Please** consider very highly of putting that back up. Thank you.
- I would like to see the old HP Disk Course re-opened. This would take the pressure off Cottonwood.
- No disc golf please! It will destroy the vegetation.
- I love disc golf and am all for this HP Revamp. Go HP disc golf!
 - Would love to see the re-installation of the disc golf course. (Across from old HP Parking lot by Marriott
 - Very easy to re-install as the pole inserts remain out there.
 - Gives the community (people of all ages) an inexpensive recreational option.
 - All you need is one 10 dollar disc to play
 - Requires 4,000 to 5,000 steps to play a round, providing a low-impact exercise at a leisurely pace.
 - The course would help ease congestion at Cottonwood Park.
 - It's a way to get people aged 15-30 to actively engage in park use.
 - Also a growing sport for people ages 60 and up.
 - The local club would be willing to help with course installation, upkeep and costs of baskets, tee boxes, signage etc. Thank you.
- CAN WE PLEASE PUT BACK IN THE DISC GOLF COURSE THAT IS UP ON THE OLD HP PROPERTY? THE 18-HOLE COURSE IS ALREADY INSTALLED AND JUST NEEDS TO HAVE BASKETS PUT BACK IN. THE PIKES PEAK DISC GOLF CLUB IS WILLING TO SPONSOR THE PARK FOR HELP WITH TRASH AND MAINTENANCE.
- Please re-install the disc golf course. The pins are still there we just need to have baskets put back up.
- I am here to promote disc golf as an activity that can be designed to work with hikers and bikers. From past meeting, erosion sound like an issue. A solution is to relocate closer to Rockrimmon. Parks should be for all interest. Thank you for the consideration.
- Don't put in disc golf. That will trample all vegetation.
- We need another disc golf course at Ute Valley Park! Thanks!

- I would like to see the disc golf course back into the Ute Valley Park (old HP property). The cost of baskets are cheap and would be a good fit for the area. Thank you.
- Please consider re-establishing the disc golf course that was previously established by Hewlett-Packard. Currently there are no disc golf courses on the east side of the interstate within Colorado Springs city limits. This course was previously enjoyed by many residents & would be so again. Thank you for your consideration.
- Would like to see use of HP's disc golf course. There is a great lack of disc golf courses for a city our size. I believe that utilizing the existing course that HP had in use would be great addition to the overall use of Ute Valley Park.
- I strongly feel the need to put disc golf back in at HP. Colorado Springs needs more disc golf parks and this is a great opportunity. Pin placements are still in ground. It would be cost efficient and there are many, many players to back up this sport.
- There was a nice disc golf course just south of the HP buildings and the pin positions are still in the ground. It would be very easy to put the course back in the ground and the local club, PPFDC, would be happy to maintain it. All that would be needed is 18 baskets at around \$400 each and few trash cans. Please consider including disc golf in the park plans, this course would get a lot of use.

Dogs

- There is an abundance of land and no provision for dogs. This area needs an off-leash designation for dogs. The dog parks are overcrowded and there are no parking places. The dog owners are totally left out. Please consider a place for dogs to be off leash.
- Please add a dog off-leash area to the plan!
- The signage says provide multi-use trails for a variety of uses. I see bikers, hikers, runners, climbers interests included. What about dog owners? I'm a single women and walk with my dog. In light of the attacks @ AFA trails, I think many women do. Off-leash dogs should be allowed if voice controlled, @ owner's expense. Poop removal is not a problem exclusive to off-leash. It's an owner's problem. Several of us have expressed off-leash interests. Staff continues to say "This is the 1st they've heard" when we know + heard it was said before. Please provide places of off-leash dogs. Ideas:
 - Days/hours for off-leash
 - Specific off-leash trails
 - Ticket dog owners for not picking up poop
 - Ticket dog owners for problems/issues fights, not on voice command etc. (similar to cell phone law-not enforced until and accident or other ticket-able offense)
- This park needs an area for off-leash dogs similar to Palmer Park. When you go to the parking on Vindicator the majority of people getting out of cars have at least one dog. Please add this to the Master Plan. The dog owners are NOT BEING HEARD. There is much discussion about multi-use, but not a word about dogs.
- We need an off-leash area for dogs that are under the command & control of their owners. We have been off-leash in UVP for years and many people have used the former HP property for off-leash dogs. There are far too few off-leash areas in COS and we cannot miss this opportunity to increase the trails authorized for off-leash. This issue was raised at previous public meetings but

the only response in the Master Plan is more enforcement! Off-leash trails are critical for training and exercise and the few COS dog parks are not suitable for training and very overcrowded. Please address this concern that was identified previously! Thank you.

- Keep dogs leashed or fenced.
- I'm really disappointed that no one is addressing dogs and where they can be off-leash or making a dog park area. I've been walking my dog for almost 15 years in Ute Valley & have never had a problem with my dog being off-leash. I believe it's a safety issue for woman to have a dog with while she's walking. This has been brought up at numerous meetings & seems to get dismissed. The posters talk about multi-users on the trails but says nothing about dog owners.
- Where's the dog park area? Hear tonight that it is not in (final) master plan & not being considered. A vast majority of people using the park, I would venture to say, have dogs with them. They may not all necessarily be at the planning meetings. Signed: Disappointed. Please re-consider.
- What happened to the dog park area? We heard it is NOT being considered and NOT in the final Master & Management Plan. There are a lot of dogs & owners that use the park & would like to see a designated area for our furry friends. Please reconsider!!
- DOG PARK! We need an off-leash area PLEASE!
- DOGS. I don't see anything for dogs in the master plan. Was told dogs wouldn't be addressed. The signs talked about everything else. You are ticketing for off-leash. Where is that money going? Use it for off-leash trails or a dog park. I don't think tickets should be given for off-leash unless you can prove dog was not voice commanded & dog has done something wrong.
- Dog voice command trails. Love to hike with my dog and children.
- Dogs on leashes—easier to clean up after them.

Trails

- Efforts to close trail on the west end of the valley, up to the Rock Outcrops (thru 39.1 acre meadow) in the 90's and 00's were unsuccessful. In fact by closing the one good trail, dozens of alternative trails cropped up. Keep the one, original, steep hiking trail.
- Make the (Regional Trail) connector paved and connect it with the Pikes Peak Greenway.
- I would like to see more advanced mountain bike trails if possible.
 - I think we should keep the current "unauthorized" downhill area open. The trails in that area hold up to weather/erosion better than most of the other trails.
 - Please don't make any existing trails easier!
 - The more open trails, the better. Ute already seems crowded. Less trails will make the open trails even more crowded.
- 1. I would like to see us keep and additional DH trail to the east of the proposed trail.
 2. Halfway down the "hummingbird" trail, there is a great unique trail to the north that drops down into the meadow. It has steep challenges and durable rocky soil that offers advanced mountain bike riders and runners a challenge. It also gives an additional route down to the valley that helps spread out traffic.
 3. There is a short steep rocky connector on the western ridge trail that connects down to near the regional trail. Currently this allows us to interconnect loops that we could not if it is closed.

- LOVE the proposal for sustainable downhill mountain bike trails. Thank you! (heart signature)
- I like that a few downhill/technical trails are included. This is a great asset.
 - Please keep all trails as narrow as possible. Keep the turns + corners. Also keep the rocks and trail features. They are more fun to hike and bike.
 - I like the plan for the new blue/black trails on the east side of the park.
- Keep trails open to all users (not bikers only) hikers like challenging trails too!
- 1. Need at least one hikers-only trail.
 2. Glad to see a trailhead on Rusina Rd.
 3. Designation trail difficulties is a great idea.
 4. Needs to be markers at each trail defining degree of difficulty.
- Wish there were more “black” (i.e., advanced) trails.
- Not excited about “blue” trail following the narrow creek through the middle of the valley, i.e., the blue trail directly west and beneath the bench on the ridge west of Eagleview Middle School. Would like to see this area preserved due to its outdoorsy feeling, wildlife usage and access to the water. Please leave it undisturbed.
 - Also, happy with the overall outcome of the trails except the regional connector trail. Glad to see the trails along east side of the west hogback made it into the plan. Yeah!
 - Please keep the connector from the western ridge trail down to the regional trail near the bridge. This short steep rocky section offers a great challenge and allows us to make the ridge trail into a figure eight loop.
 - Make all trails open to bikes.
- At least one “hiker-only” trail.

Management Issues

- Keep some of fence along south side to protect private property from park visitors.
- Looking forward to volunteering and helping where I can.
- Please do NOT put trash or pet waste trash cans by the neighborhood trail connections!
- Are there any plans for the city to start some sort of shuttle to bring mountain bikers to higher areas of the park? It’s pretty common to see this in mountain resort areas elsewhere in Colorado.
- Interested in supporting the maintenance of the pond as a wildlife resource. Any information regarding water rights, fundraising contacts at Red Rock Canyon would be appreciated.
- There is no need for dog poop stations at trailheads. These stations usually result in empty bags flying around and unsightly, smelly results. With budget challenges for Parks it would be foolish to add City staff requirements to empty those receptacles. People responsible enough to pick up their dog’s poop will be responsible enough to take it home with them.
- Also—along the way, I have been working with a few different people regarding the Park Bench Program that exists in C/S. Will we be able to add a few (one?)—my husband hiked this park 3-4 times a week before at age 56 he had a fatal heartache in Nov., 2013. My daughter and I would like to place a stone bench in the park (in his memory) strategically placed for others to rest and

enjoy the park. This is a bit awkward because I don't intend to make this a "personal" agenda but you please take a look at? Thanks!

Community Involvement Process

- Thanks for such a good public process!
- Thank you for facilitating an excellent process for accessing community input while using the expert from within to guide decision-making.
- Thank you all for the (???) work done and inclusive nature of the process! Well done!
- Great job of listening to public.
- BIG THANKS FOR INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY!
- Happy overall with the process and series of community meetings and the chance to provide input. Thank you!

Draft Master and Management Plan

- Lots of great work.
- The more natural the better!!
- Looks good.
- Well-designed plan!
- I think the master and management plan looks great! As a person who respects all aspects of this beautiful park, I appreciate your commitment to sustainability and protection of this amazing place!! THANK YOU.

Forest Management

- The latest forestry work is awesome. Keep up the good work.
- Mitigate southwest area also for scrub oak.
- It is unclear as to why the western portion of the park is considered less of a risk than the east for wildfire? Are the trees on the left less combustible than those on the right? Douglas Firs vs. Juniper? Northern western wlopes? Moisture? Or is it because houses are on the east? (But thanks for updating the survey to include the facts that there are Firs + Junipers.)
- Where is the balance point between wildlife habitat protection and forest management/Gambel Oak thinning and weed management?

Trails Focus Session Verbatim Comments

- You have closed a lot of trails. I am for that, but over the years bikers go wherever they want, that's why we have all those social trails. I want to know how you plan to close all of these trails. All this work for nothing.
- Looks like the proposed Regional trail is the best option. However, I'd like to see the more traveled Regional Trail to drop down into the valley further west of the arch if possible. Being so close to the arch is liable to invite damage to that natural feature.
- Love the natural surroundings of the proposed Regional Trail alignment. Please do not force regional trail users to ride/walk along Vindicator. (Hate Regional Trail along Flying-W that lies in right-of-way and is too steep.)
- Can the Regional Trail start with the existing high trail and then switch back down to avoid steep drop off?
- Presenters repeatedly mischaracterized the citizen input from the Sept. and Nov. meetings as "conflicting" In fact there was "overwhelming opposition" to the use of the hiking-only (middle Road)(Beaver) Trail as the Regional Trail at both mtgs.

The existing service road is currently a transportation route from the Pine Cliff neighborhood to the HP site. Reconfiguration with the Proposed Regional trail messes that up.

The Master Plan calls for a connection to Ute Valley Park, but not necessarily right thru UVP. Please re-evaluate other paths that use the existing service roads or route the trail to the park periphery, or connect to, but not thru, UVP.

Regional Trail proposal does not reflect the wishes of the majority of the citizens input. It violates the trust of the citizens in the community input process.

Rerouted Existing Hiking-only Trail will ~~disturb~~ take out tress, disturb vegetation an introduce dual/parallel (chained) disturbed trails.

Proposed Regional Trail will negatively impact existing trail that is:

- Hiking only
- Low traffic
- (mostly) narrow but thank-you if you can rehab it to be narrow
- Quiet
- Moderate (not too easy, not too hard, but just right! (That cuts across the quiet, rocky ledge that is nice to sit on) with a wide , boring, busy, crowded thoroughfare

The UVP Master Plan states that the Regional Trail is "not primarily a transportation route". Look it up.

- What works: I like the trail plan overall. What worries me: I would hate to lose the hiking-only trail to the Regional Trail. This is such a nice hiking trail as is (this segment of it.)
- What works for you? Connecting. Sustainable trail connecting w/ portion (of) park w/ Greenway. What worries you w/ this routing? Interferes w/ lovely hiking only trail in valley.
- About the connector trail in Ute...
 - 1) What works?
 - a. The small NW section b/w the Vindicator parking lot and NW corner of the park

2) Any worries?

- It goes through the middle of the park
- It's big and ugly. (i.e., wide)
- If the point of the trail is connectivity, and not experiencing the park, maybe there's a way to run to trail along Vindicator, then up and "behind" Eagleview Middle School, b/w the school and the ridge
- Don't want to lose the intimate feeling of the "hikers only" trail

Side note: Wish you guys had a set of maps displaying 2 or 3 options that attendees could vote on.

- 1. Proposed trail makes sense. I like it.
- 2. What is connection to Greenway?
- Regional Trail:
 - If possible, please move to upper east ridge and drop down before steep rocky section.
 - Otherwise, looks good-like the Tier 3--stay away from riparian area.
- 1. What's good? The western part gets very muddy and wide so it would help that.
- 2. Prefer that the Regional Trail goes up on top of the hill closer to Eagleview.—Why? That is such a nice, varied vegetation, lots of ups & downs & beautiful rocks for a peaceful hiking trail—seems a shame to make the rocky part 8' wide and "destroy" the beauty of what is a great section. Seems like it should take the less woody, faster path as a connector trail?
- What works—
 1. Connectivity is crucial to who we are as a city.
- What worries me—
 2. The location—too much impact on the natural resources. Can we please move it further north???
- Is the Regional Trail required to go thru the park to create a specific trail experience? If not, why not move it as far north as possible. Maybe even through the school property. Seems like there's a lot of contention for having a high throughput trail between the two North/South ridges. This could also eliminate some of the technical challenges of putting a low grade trail in.